



# Government Media Statement

12 January 2010

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**Jim Cox MP**  
Minister for Police and Emergency Management

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## **Boost for Tasmania's Fire Fighting Resources**

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Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox today welcomed a boost to Tasmania's fire fighting capabilities with an additional helicopter for the bushfire season.

Mr Cox said the helicopter was already being deployed in Northern Tasmania to help defend urban interface areas from the threat of bushfires.

"Helicopters are proving their worth at fires around the State providing invaluable support to fire fighting crews on the ground." Mr Cox said.

Up to four helicopters a day had been used to fight the Yorktown fires.

"The Government is strongly committed to building the State's fire fighting capability and this additional helicopter is a welcome addition to our resources."

North-West based Tasmanian Helicopters has been contracted for 12 weeks and the medium helicopter will be based out of Launceston.

"These helicopters are the largest water-bombing aircraft in Tasmania with their 1400 litre belly tanks taking just 35 seconds to fill from an open water source."

"This provides vital support to the hard work of Tasmania Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife crews on the ground," he said.

Mr Cox said the State's fire agencies had also contracted two additional helicopters as aerial command platforms with fire mapping, reconnaissance and limited fire fighting capability.

“Call when needed arrangements are also in place for another 18 aircraft across the State,” Mr Cox said.

Federal Member for Lyons Dick Adams said the contract for the additional helicopter was the result of a partnership between the Federal and State Governments.

“It has been funded by the State Government and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre with the support of the Australian Government’s Department of Transport and Regional Services,” Mr Adams said.

The helicopters also have radio and telephone communication systems to talk directly to incident management teams and fire crews allowing real time fire information to be passed on and advanced mapping technology to locate and map fires for incident operations and community information.

The public can be kept informed via the Tasmania Fire Service website ([www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)), ABC local radio, media outlets and the phone-based Emergency Alert system